

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6771

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9186

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AR, CU, PFOR

SUBJECT: CUBA AT BUENOS AIRES MFM

REF: STATE 267951

1. CHARGE CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA EVENING DECEMBER 6 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF INVITATION TO CUBA TO ATTEND BUENOS AIRES MFM. AFTER LEARNING OF US POSITION, SILVEIRA RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY THAT BRAZIL'S VIEW, AS HE SEES IT, IS EXACTLY THE SAME. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT GEISEL RIGHT AWAY AND IF PRESIDENT'S REACTION SHOULD DIFFER IN ANY WAY, HE WOULD LET US KNOW.

2. SILVEIRA SAID BRAZIL HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED RECENTLY BY ARGENTINES ON THIS QUESTION. WHEN THEY RAISED IT BEFORE QUITO MEETING BRAZILIAN RESPONSE WAS THAT CONSIDERATION OF CUBA QUESTION WAS PREMATURE, THAT SOME EVIDENCE OF CUBA'S INTENTION TO DESIST FROM INTERFERENCE WAS CALLED FOR FIRST. THIS REMAINS BRAZIL'S POSITION.

3. SILVEIRA WAS INCLINED TO INTERPRET ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR US HELP AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS AFTER QUITO FIASCO, ALSO INDICATION THAT ARGENTINES WISH TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAVING TO PRECIPITATE SOLUTION THIS QUESTION AT BUENOS AIRES. HE ALSO SPECULATED THAT
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MOVE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INSPIRED IN PART BY

IMPRESSION WHICH HE CLAIMED PERUVIANS TOOK AWAY FROM QUITO THAT US POSITION ON EMBARGO TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO EARLY CHANGE. AGAIN, HE SAID, SUCH CANVASSING IS PREMATURE; DOUBTFUL THAT ANY POSITIONS HAVE CHANGED SINCE QUITO.

4. SILVEIRA SAID NO LESS THAN TWELVE COUNTRIES HAVE ASKED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH BRAZIL ON CUBA QUESTION CONNECTION UPCOMING BUENOS AIRES MEETING. IN CONNECTION ITS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THESE THREE COUNTRIES, BRAZIL WILL BE DEVOTING EARLY ATTENTION TO EVOLVING POSITIONS OF BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY.

5. HE DECLINED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON WHETHER AND IN WHAT FORM CUBA ISSUE MIGHT COME UP AT BUENOS AIRES, STATING THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY. HE PREDICTED TROUBLE MIGHT COME FROM PANAMA AND/OR PERU, WITH FORMER LAMENTING CUBA'S NON-ATTENDANCE AND LATTER TOUCHING ON ALLEGED US INTERVENTION IN CUBA. EMBASSY WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ITAMARATI ON THIS QUESTION AND SEEK TO OBTAIN MORE SPECIFIC FORECAST IN COMING DAYS.

6. IN SIDE COMMENT, SILVEIRA SAID COSTA RICAN FORMER HAD VOLUNTEERED TO HIM THAT AFTER QUITO RESULTS COSTA RICA HAD NO INTENTION OF EARLY MOVE TOWARD RECOGNITION. ECUADOR'S PRESIDENT MADE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR REMARK, STATING THAT NO MOVE WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT EXHAUSTIVE STUDY. VENEZUELA, HE SAID, IS IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SITUATION BECAUSE OF ITS CARIBBEAN ORIENTATION.

7. COMMENT: SILVEIRA SEEMED DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THIS CLEAR-CUT EXPOSITION OF US POSITION, WHICH HE PORTRAYED AS PARALLELING HIS OWN LONG-HELD VIEWS. HE ALSO APPRECIATED OUR PROPOSAL FOR CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON ARGENTINE PROPOSAL AND AGREED ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
JOHNSON

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